

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

### **In the Claims:**

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that improves treatment of wounds to skin or another external body ~~surfaces~~ surface in a diabetic animal, the method comprising:

- a) producing a wound in the skin or another external body surface of the diabetic animal;
- b) exposing the wound to an aldose reductase inhibitor compound ~~permitting the wound to heal in the presence or absence of a test compound~~;
- c) comparing wound healing in the presence of the compound to wound healing in the absence of the compound; and
- d) identifying a compound that improves treatment of wounds to skin or another external body surface in the animal if the wound contracts more in a shorter period of time when treated in the presence of ~~a test~~ the compound than when the wound is treated in the absence of ~~a test~~ the compound.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

e) comparing wound healing in the presence of ~~the a~~ test compound with wound healing in the presence of a ~~test~~ control aldose reductase inhibitor, wherein the test compound is identified as a compound that improves treatment of wounds to or another external body surface in an animal if the wound heals at least as rapidly, completely or less painfully in the presence of the test compound as in the presence of the control aldose reductase inhibitor.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the animal is a mammal.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the animal is a human.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the wound is to skin on an animal.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the wound is produced by punch biopsy.

8. (Withdrawn)

9. (Withdrawn)

10. (Withdrawn)

11. (Withdrawn)

12. (Withdrawn)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that improves diabetic neuropathy or neurological disorders associated with diabetes, the method comprising:

- a) producing a wound in the skin or another external body surface of a diabetic animal;
- b) exposing the wound to an aldose reductase inhibitor compound ~~permitting the wound to heal in the presence or absence of a test compound;~~
- c) comparing wound healing in the presence of the compound to wound healing in the absence of the compound; and
- d) identifying a compound that improves diabetic neuropathy or neurological disorders associated with diabetes if the wound contracts more in a shorter period of time when treated in the presence of ~~a test~~ the compound than when the wound is treated in the absence of the ~~test~~ compound.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 13, further comprising:

- e) comparing wound healing in the presence of ~~the~~ a test compound with wound healing in the presence of a[[n]] control aldose reductase inhibitor, wherein the test compound is identified as a compound that improves diabetic neuropathy or neurological disorders associated with diabetes if the wound heals at least as rapidly, completely or less painfully in the presence of the compound as in the presence of the control aldose reductase inhibitor.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the animal is a mammal.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the animal is a human.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the wound is to skin on an animal.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the wound is produced by punch biopsy.
20. (Withdrawn)
21. (Withdrawn)
22. (Withdrawn)
23. (Withdrawn)
24. (Withdrawn)
25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein the animal is a mammal.
26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein the animal is a human.
27. (Canceled)
28. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the wound is to skin on an animal.
29. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the wound is produced by punch biopsy.
30. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the animal is a mammal.
31. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the animal is a human.
32. (Canceled)
33. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14, wherein the wound is to skin on an animal.
34. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14, wherein the wound is produced by punch biopsy.
35. (Newly Presented Claim) A method of healing or treating wounds using an aldose reductase inhibitor identified by the method of claims 1 or 13.